Threads of Tradition & Creativity

Handwoven by My Mother, Preserved Through Generations

Traditional Changeri / Daliya Basket

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This traditional Changeri, Daliya or Dauri basket was handwoven by my mother about 40 years ago during her childhood. It is approximately 11–12 inches in diameter and was made using Kans grass (wild sugarcane) and Saccharum munja (Moonj grass). The grasses were twisted and coiled to form the basket.

For the colourful designs, the Moonj grass was tied into bundles and dyed by boiling it in natural colours such as pink, purple and green. After drying, the coloured grass was carefully arranged to create decorative patterns while weaving.

The basket was traditionally used for storing rotis, fruits and other household items. We still use it for keeping rotis because it is strong, durable and reusable. Depending on the region, it is known by different names, such as Changeri/Chhabba in Punjab and Haryana, and Daliya/Dauri in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Uttarakhand.

This basket represents an old Indian tradition of coiled grass basketry (Tokri Bunna). It is a traditional, sustainable and eco-friendly craft, using locally available wild grasses.

- **Ancient tradition: Moonj-grass basketry has been practiced in North India for generations and was used for household and ceremonial purposes.**
- **Traditional communities: Indigenous and rural communities developed the craft to turn locally available grasses into useful, long-lasting products.**
- **Cultural heritage: The craft reflects the knowledge passed from mothers and elders to younger generations.**

This basket is more than a household object—it is a piece of family history and traditional Indian craftsmanship. Made from natural grass by my mother in her childhood, it connects us to sustainable living, handmade traditions and generations of knowledge.

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